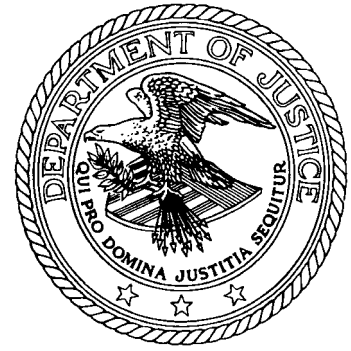


# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Sherri Walker Hobson, 619-557-5027***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 22, 2005**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Rogelio Espinoza-Esparza pled guilty today in federal district court in San Diego before United States District Court Judge Thomas J. Whelan to conspiracy to distribute approximately 24 pounds of methamphetamine. Rogelio Espinoza-Esparza was indicted by a federal grand jury, along with his codefendants, Rafael Buzo-Prado and Octavio Ruiz-Apodaca, on October 1, 2004.

In connection with his guilty plea, Espinoza-Esparza admitted that he attempted to deliver approximately five pounds of methamphetamine to an undercover agent on September 23, 2004. Drug Enforcement Administration agents seized an additional four pounds of methamphetamine at Espinoza-Esparza's residence in Chula Vista, California, and an additional 10 pounds of methamphetamine in codefendant Octavio Ruiz-Apodaca's vehicle, which was parked at Espinoza-Esparza's residence.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri Walker Hobson, who prosecuted the case, codefendants Rafael Buzo-Prado and Octavio Ruiz-Apodaca previously pled guilty in federal court to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and are awaiting sentencing.

The case is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Defendant Espinoza-Esparza faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in custody with a maximum sentence of life in prison. Sentencing is set for November 14, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Whelan.

### **DEFENDANT**

Rogelio Espinoza-Esparza  
Chula Vista, California

### **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21,  
United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846  
Minimum mandatory: 10 years in custody  
Maximum Penalty: Life in prison and/or \$1,000,000 fine, five years supervised release

### **AGENCY**

Drug Enforcement Administration